

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 05053 151652Z

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TAGS: OGEN, SW, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SALE OF US EQUIPMENT TO SWEDISH DEFENSE

REF: STOCKHOLM 5009, STOCKHOLM 5019

1. EDITORIAL IN EXPRESSEN, LIBERAL AFTERNOON TABLOID, SEPT. 15
FOLLOWS:

2. "A CASE FOR THE NEW 'SPY-BOARD'.

'I UNDERSTAND THAT IT SEEMS SUSPICIOUS BUT IT ISN'T.' THUS
FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON EXPLAINED THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET
AFFAIRS WITH UNKNOWN AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN WHICH, AMONG OTHERS,
AN AMERICAN AIR FORCE GENERAL HAS FIGURED AS THE MIDDLE MAN.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER IS RIGHT. BUT
HIS ASSURANCES SOUND NOT COMPLETELY CONVINCING. MORE COMPLETE
ASSURANCES ARE REQUIRED.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF STIG SYNNERGREN GAVE APPARENTLY MORE OPEN
ANSWERS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT NEVERTHELESS, THERE REMAIN
IMPORTANT PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS AFTER THE REVELATIONS WHICH THE
IMPROBABLE COMBINATION, FIB/KULTURFRONT - WASHINGTON POST, MADE
ON TUESDAY.

ACCORDING TO (SYNNERGREN), THE SWEDISH DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
DURING ALMOST EIGHT YEARS HAS BOUGHT SECRET EQUIPMENT FROM THE
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 05053 151652Z

U.S. FOR THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN SWEDEN FOR A TOTAL OF THREE

MILLION KRONOR. THE PURCHASES CONTINUE. IT IS WHOLLY IN ORDER THAT SWEDEN BUYS ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT - AS IT HAS BEEN SAID TO BE - AND THE MONEY IS, IN TOTAL, A TRIFLING SUM.

BUT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE MONEY REALLY HAS BEEN FOR PURCHASING OF EQUIPMENT AS (SYNNERGREN) ASSURES AND WHY THE PAYMENTS IN SUCH A CASE WERE MADE IN SUCH MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

THE MATERIEL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SWEDISH ARMED FORCES NORMALLY HANDLES PURCHASES FOR THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. BUT THERE THE INFORMATION CHIEF STATES THAT ONE HAS NOT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT AFFAIR. SVEN ANDERSSON HOLDS NOW THAT ANOTHER ORGAN EXISTS WITH THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH PURCHASES FOR THE ARMED FORCES. WHICH AUTHORITIES ARE THEY?

WHO HAS DECIDED ABOUT THE PURCHASES? HAS ONE THE AUTHORITY FOR IT? HAS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OVERSTEPPED ITS AUTHORITY? WHAT IS IT THAT WAS BOUGHT? HAS THE MONEY LANDED IN THE RIGHT POCKET? HOW DOES ONE KNOW WHEN IT IS PAID OUT TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN CASH?

IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO CRAVE PUBLIC ANSWERS ON ALL THOSE QUESTIONS WHEN IT CONCERNS THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BUT THE QUESTIONS OUGHT TO BE ASKED AND ANSWERED BEFORE THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED THIS SUMMER. 'THE SPY BOARD'-WHICH CAME INTO BEING TO COMPLY WITH THE DEMAND FOR OBSERVATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE BODY AFTER THE IB AFFAIR-HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT GOTTEN THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE QUESTION.

IT (THE COMMITTEE) OUGHT TO GET THE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY AND WITH THE RIGHT FOR THE MEMBERS-THREE ARE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS-TO OPENLY BE ABLE BEFORE THE ELCTION TO SAY IF THERE IS A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION. THE BOARD CAN HOPEFULLY CONFIRM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSURANCES."

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